AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1 of the Specification as follows:

Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a router embodiment 50 that includes *M* multiple dedicated multicast cards 16-1 through 16-M and 18-1 through 18-M. Switch fabric 12 is partitioned into *m* multiple subplanes, for example subplanes 12-1 through 12-3, thus supporting *m* multiple simultaneous switching paths, for example switching paths 106-1 through 106-m, 112-1 through 112-m, and 116-1 through 116-m. In a folded router geometry, multicast cards 16-1 and 18-1, and connecting data loop 108-1 occupy a single circuit card. Similarly multicast cards 16-M and 18-M and connecting data loop 108-M occupy a single circuit card. In the example of Fig. 2, a multicast packet is sent by input line card 14 simultaneously through parallel switching paths 106-1 through 106-m across switch fabric 12 to *M* dedicated multicast cards 16-1, 18-1 through 16-M, 18-M, where the packet is replicated at each multicast card and then sent in *m* parallel replica packets from each dedicated multicast card 16-1, 18-1 through 16-M, 18-M through simultaneous switching paths 112-1 through 112-m and 116-1 through 116-m respectively across switch fabric 12 to *N* destination line cards 20-1 through 20-N. This multiple replication provides a one-to-*N* ~~an *N* to one~~ multicast tree expansion. If two dedicated multicast cards 16-M, 18-M can each send three replica packets, then three replicas multiplied by two multicast cards would provide one-to-six ~~six to one~~ multicast tree expansion. This procedure improves the fan out and reduces the time delay, since more data is multicast within a single switch cycle.